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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/538,967

06/14/2005

Naoki Fujii

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1933 7590 04/08/2008

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EXAMINER

HENN, TIMOTHY J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2622

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/08/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/538,967	Applicant(s) FUJII ET AL.	
	Examiner Timothy J. Henn	Art Unit 2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 June 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 June 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 2 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawano et al. (US 2001/0003495) in view of Abe et al. (US 7,092,030).

[claim 1]

Regarding claim 1, Kawano discloses a digital camera comprising: a taking-lens barrel arranged on the right of the camera as viewed from a subject (Figure 2, Item 2; note the lens 2 is slightly offset from center towards the right side); a battery chamber having therein a battery storage space, arranged on the left of the camera as viewed from the subject with a principal plane thereof in the camera width direction (Figure 2, Item 300); a strobe light-emitting unit arranged upward of the front and nearly the center of the camera width direction (Figure 2, Item 210); and a strobe condenser arranged on the back of the strobe light-emitting unit in a long space in the direction in which the longitudinal direction of the strobe condenser matches the long direction of the space (Figure 2, Item 220). However, Kawano does not disclose an electric substrate or display unit as claimed.

Abe discloses an arrangement for reducing the size of a camera in which an electric substrate which processes image signals is placed to a left side of a lens barrel

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and arranged in a vertical direction (Figures 12A-12C, Item 112b) and a display unit which displays images is placed on a rear of the lens barrel (Figure 12A-12C, Item 114, 114a) to reduce parallax (c. 9, ll. 5-43). Therefore, it would be obvious to include and arrange an electric substrate for processing image signals and a display unit to display captured images as shown by Abe to reduce the thickness and parallax of the camera.

[claim 2]

Regarding claim 2, note that Abe further discloses that a substrate can be placed in front of the battery of the camera and arranged in a width direction (e.g. Figure 12A, Item 112a). It is noted that arranging a substrate as shown in the camera of Kawano would cover the strobe condenser as claimed.

[claim 5]

Regarding claim 5, Kawano discloses a lens barrel unit for a digital camera comprising: an electric substrate on which an image pickup element is mounted (Figure 1, Item 3); and a taking lens barrel including a taking lens for forming a subject image onto the image pickup element (Figure 1, Item 1), wherein the electric substrate is attached to the back of the taking-lens barrel (Figures 1 and 2). However Kawano lacks an image display unit as claimed.

Abe discloses an arrangement for a camera in which an a display unit which displays images is placed on a rear of the lens barrel (Figure 12A-12C, Item 114, 114a) to reduce parallax (c. 9, ll. 5-43). Therefore, it would be obvious to include and arrange a display unit to display captured images as shown by Abe to reduce parallax of the camera.

3. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kai et al. (US 7,161,621) in view of Abe et al. (US 7,092,030).

[claim 3]

Regarding claim 3, Kai discloses a digital camera comprising: a taking lens barrel including a taking lens and an image pickup element (Figure 2); a lens driving unit for moving the taking lens, attached to one side in front of the taking lens barrel to be at least partly projected from the side of the taking-lens barrel (Figure 11) and an image pickup substrate arranged on the side of the taking-lens barrel (Figure 11, Item 2). However, Kai does not disclose a display unit as claimed.

Abe discloses an arrangement for a camera in which an a display unit which displays images is placed on a rear of the lens barrel (Figure 12A-12C, Item 114, 114a) to reduce parallax (c. 9, ll. 5-43). Therefore, it would be obvious to include and arrange a display unit to display captured images as shown by Abe to reduce parallax of the camera. It is noted that arranging a display unit as described by Abe would result in a display unit which is in a parallel direction to the back of the taking-lens barrel.

[claim 4]

Regarding claim 4, Kai discloses an image pickup element substrate on which the image pickup element is mounted (Figure 11, Item 2). It is further noted that arranging a display unit as described by Abe would result in the substrate being sandwiched by the lens barrel and display unit as claimed.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

i.	Kobayashi	US 7,180,546
ii.	Ito et al.	US 6,463,222
iii.	Yamaguchi	US 6,992,724

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy J. Henn whose telephone number is (571)272-7310. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 11-7.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lin Ye can be reached on (571) 272-7372. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/Timothy J Henn/
Examiner, Art Unit 2622
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